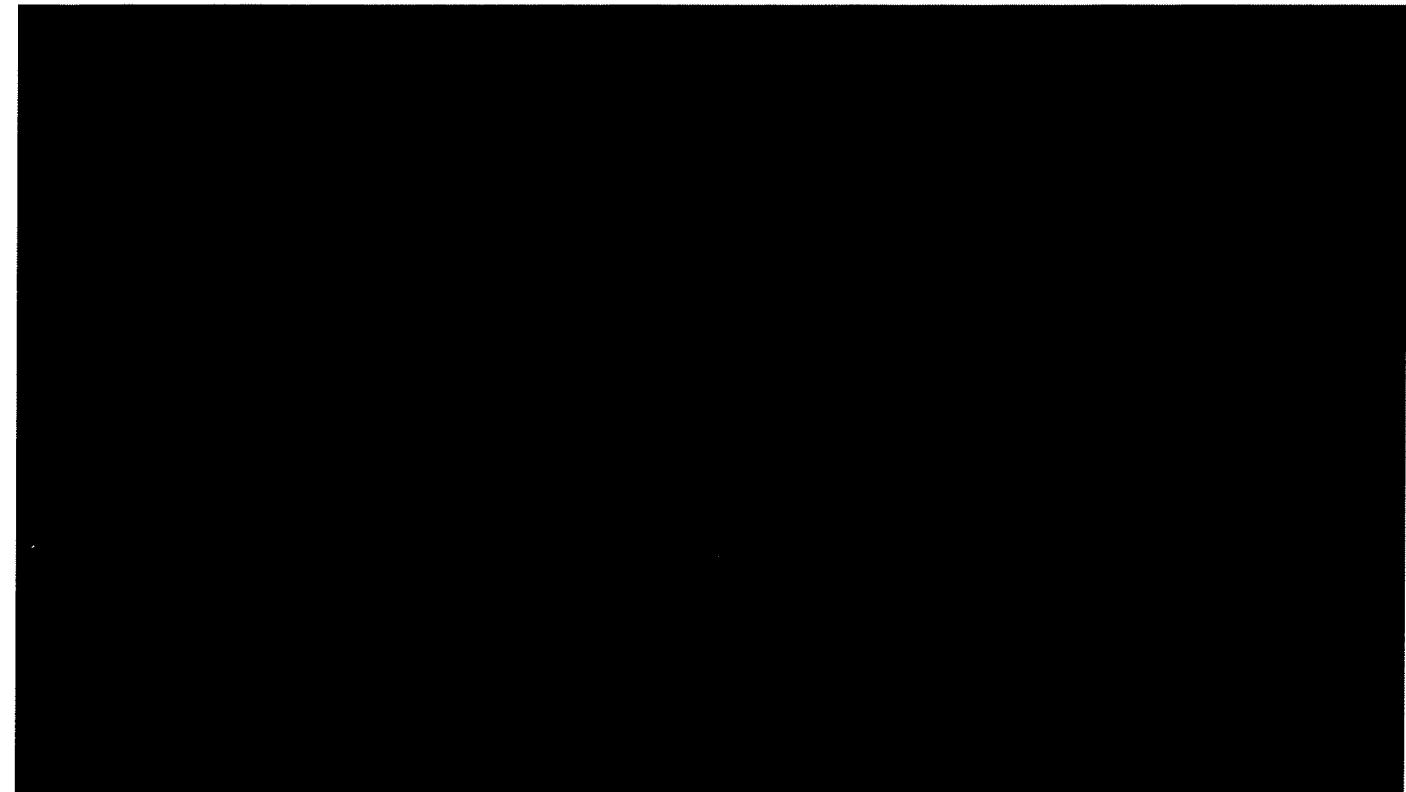


# EXHIBIT E

3/30/2017

'Many millions' lost in Dan Schantz fire, owner says - Lehigh Valley Business Cycle

# 'Many millions' lost in Dan Schantz fire, owner says



The owners of the Dan Schantz farm said a fire that ripped through one of its buildings Tuesday night caused more than a million dollars in damages, including the loss of flowers and bulbs awaiting shipment.

By **Matt Coughlin**

Of The Morning Call

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'Many millions' lost in Dan Schantz fire

JANUARY 6, 2017, 6:20 PM | LOWER MILFORD TOWNSHIP

**D**an Schantz Farm owners believe their losses in Tuesday's fire will be "many millions" of dollars, as insurance and fire officials continue their investigation.

Controller and co-owner Lisa Myers said that Dan Schantz Farm & Greenhouse's production area and coolers were lost in the fire Tuesday night at the 83-acre farm at Spinnerstown Road and Plover Lane in Lower Milford Township. Those losses include many bulbs that were being stored in the coolers.

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Myers said that January is a planting period so, luckily, the holiday season was over. If the fire had happened a month ago at the "new head house" packaging and shipping area, it would have been full of poinsettias and other flowers awaiting shipment for the holidays.

The next big season will be Easter, which Myers pointed out is later than usual this year, falling on April 15. She said the company expects to have no difficulties meeting consumer demand at that time.

The insurance company is still working on the estimate, Myers said.

A lot of the debris has been cleaned up and workers have been getting temporary planting lines set up. One of the major concerns after the fire was saving the company's flowers and bulbs. Myers said the less than frigid temperature Wednesday night helped, and that workers were able to heat the greenhouses to save the flowers and bulbs.

For the time being, the shipments are being routed through Schantz's facility in Pipersville, Bucks County.

Myers said that investigators believe the fire may have started with an electrical short in the ceiling of the new head house.

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# Two Major Growers Recovering and Rebuilding After Fires

By: [Janeen Wright](#) | [Laura Drotleff](#)

January 17, 2017

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Two major growers in Pennsylvania and Michigan are recovering and rebuilding after fires swept through their facilities recently.

A massive fire destroyed the main office building at Spring Meadow Nursery in Grand Haven, MI, early in the morning on Sunday, January 15. The first fire, which occurred at Dan Schantz Farm and Greenhouses in Zionsville, PA, on



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January 3, damaged the main building used for packing and shipping and destroyed bulbs and flowers waiting for shipment. Despite the damage, employees are busy planting and preparing for the spring season.

It's "Game on at Dan Schantz," according to the company's Facebook page, and co-owner Patrick Flanley says it's business as usual for the company's customers, who will not be affected by the fire and should still receive their products on time.

Firefighters from more than four counties battled the three-alarm fire, which consumed the production, shipping, storage, maintenance, and soil rooms at Dan Schantz, causing more than \$1 million in damages. Crews arrived to battle the fire around 8:30 p.m. January 3, and worked through the night to contain the blaze. Fire marshalls believe an electrical short in the head house sparked the blaze.

The company was able to salvage some materials from the receiving department, and its satellite locations have pitched in to lend a hand with production.

"The first week after the fire was slow getting started, but we are planting daily," Flanley says.

Partners and long-time employees have come together to rebuild. Once workers clear the area, the rebuild will start, with an expected mid-summer completion, Flanley says.

Dan Schantz Farm and Greenhouses is No. 33 on **Greenhouse Grower's 2016 Top 100 Grower list** with



March 25, 2017

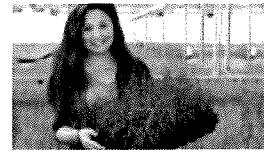
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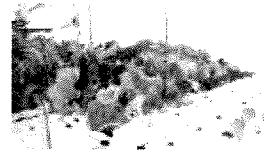


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1,814,381 square feet of environmentally controlled space and 10 acres of field production. It operates from four locations, three in Pennsylvania and one in Maryland, growing a variety of annuals, indoor blooming and foliage plants, Easter bulbs, poinsettias, fall flowers, edibles, and more. In addition to its wholesale customers, the company supplies its retail store in Allentown, PA.

### Fire Destroys Main Office Building at Spring Meadow Nursery

A massive fire destroyed the main office building at Spring Meadow Nursery in Grand Haven, MI, early in the morning on Sunday, January 15. Six fire departments responded to the blaze and were successful in keeping the fire from spreading to any greenhouses or other structures.

Early estimates from Robinson Township Fire Department Chief Paul VanVelzen put the damage at \$1.5 million, according to a Fox News Channel 17 article.

On its Facebook page, the operation stated:

"We are fortunate that no one was hurt and damage to our growing structures was minimal. We can replace things, we can replace walls, but we can't replace our team of employees. Thank you all so much for your concern and support."

Spring Meadow Public Relations Manager Mark Osgerby says no greenhouses suffered any major damage, and all remain fully operational. No plants or growing space were lost in the fire, and customer orders are unaffected and completely secure for the coming season.

The growing operation's offices are currently being relocated on the property and will be fully operational with phone and email service by mid-week this week. Spring Meadow Nursery plans to continue to provide the same level of high-quality customer service and plant product as it works to replace its infrastructure.

Osgerby says while the cause of the fire is unknown, the building was fully insured. Safeguards to protect important documents allowed for Spring Meadow to recover data after the fire.



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"By placing critical documents in fireproof cabinets and maintaining offsite backups of all digital files, we lost no data or important information," he says.

Plans are already in process for a new and larger office to accommodate the continuously growing staff necessary to serve a growing customer base.

Spring Meadow Nursery, Inc., produces flowering shrubs and potted liners, and is a plant breeder that also represents other breeders. The nursery grows more than 500 varieties of woody ornamental plants, including 274 varieties marketed under the Proven Winners Color Choice brand, like Invincibelle Spirit II Hydrangea, Incrediball Hydrangea, Bloomerang lilacs, Wine & Roses weigela, and more.

For the latest information about the company's accessibility and office rebuild, **visit its Facebook page**. Visit the **Spring Meadow Nursery** web site for more information on the company.

For tips on how to protect your greenhouse from disasters such as these, **check out an article** posted on GreenhouseGrower.com last year.

**TOPICS:** Dan Schantz Farm, Fire, Spring Meadow

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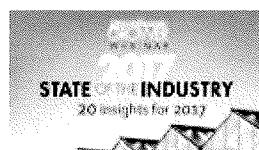
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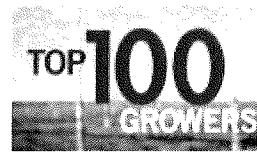
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LEHIGH VALLEY (/NEWS/LEHIGH-VALLEY-1)

## Dan Schantz Farm rebuilding underway

By: [Emma Wright](http://www.wfmz.com/meet-the-team/emma-wright/142856870) (<mailto:emma.wright@wfmz.com>)

Posted: Feb 20, 2017 10:34 PM EST

Updated: Feb 21, 2017 04:34 PM EST

VIDEO: Dan Schantz Farm rebuilding...

LOWER MILFORD TOWNSHIP, Pa. - Rebuilding is underway at Dan Schantz Farm in Lower Milford Township.

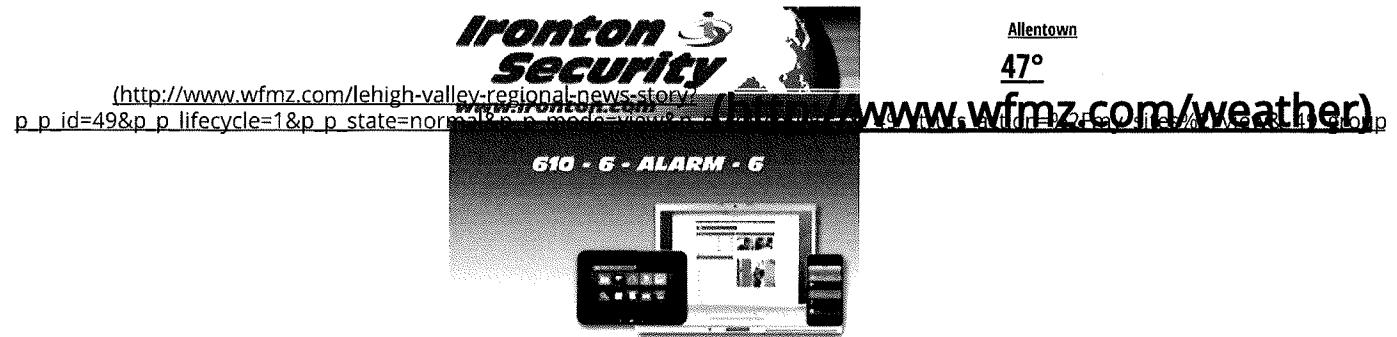
A large fire in early January destroyed much of the farm's production and storage areas.

Owner Patrick Flanley said his team started to clean-up and plan the rebuild two days after the fire.

"It's going to go in stages, I'm hoping to have a shell up...by the end of March," he said.

Flanley said dealing with the aftermath of the fire can be stressful but he's looking forward to the future.

He said production is up and running and the farm is preparing for Easter, one of their busiest seasons.



Flanley said if all goes according to plan, the rebuilding will be completed by mid-June.

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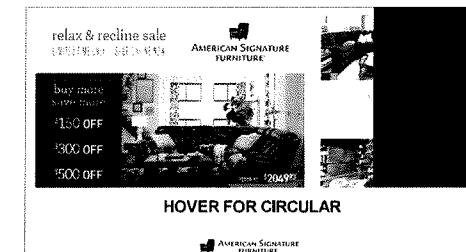
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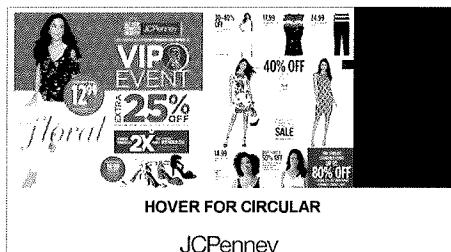
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